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servative, giving a sound reason for the authors' propositions when stated, and citing authorities in a clear concise way. The lawyer who possesses it can depend upon its statements as carefully made and cannot fail to find all the law up to date, stated and arranged in a way to make the way of the searcher easy, and the determination of vexed questions on the subject much simpler of solution.

Select Essays in Anglo-American Legal History. By various authors. Compiled and edited by a committee of the Association of American Law Schools. In three volumes. Vol. 1. Little Brown and Company. Boston. 1907. Price for the three volumes, \$12 net, delivered.

The amount of learning buried in the periodicals of the last quarter of a century can hardly be estimated. Scattered through serial journals, of which few are preserved save in the public libraries, no matter how important the subject or how able the author—unless presented in some more permanent shape—much of the best work of our time is ephemeral and soon forgotten. In no branch of learning is this more the case than in the history of the various branches of the law. Recognizing this fact the Association of American Law Schools in 1905 and 1906 determined to rescue from "the oblivion of the shelves" those essays and treatises of permanent value bearing upon the structure of English and American Legal History. The committee appointed to make the selection and prepare the volumes was composed of Professor Ernest Freund of the University of Chicago, Wm. E. Mikell of the University of Pennsylvania, and John H. Wigmore of Northwestern University. The first volume of their selection is now before us and if those which succeed it are of equal merit, they have rendered a service to the cause of Law and Letters alike, hard to be overestimated.

The essays collected in the book fall under the head of "General Surveys" and are grouped under five heads: 1, "Before the Norman Conquest;" 2, "From the Norman Conquest to the Eighteenth Century;" 3, "The American Colonial Period;" 4, "Expansion and Reform of the Law in the Nineteenth Century;" 5, "Bench and Bar from Norman Times to the Nineteenth Century;" Essays by Fred. Wm. Maitland, Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.; Mr. John Richard Green, James Brice, Judge J. F. Dillon, Edward Jenks, Baron Bowen and others, reprinted from periodicals of note, or extracted from larger volumes, are given in this work. Each—no matter who the author—is well worthy of perusal and preservation. The grouping of cognate subjects gives the work the distinct value of unity, and one can read the volume with an interest which grows with the perusal of each

essay.

No subject seems to be more neglected in our law schools than Legal History. Its relationship to general history—the influence of law upon politics—politics upon the law—the silent and gradual effect of the development of a nation upon jurisprudence—the economic and social conditions reflected by the laws of a country—the intellectual forces called into action by the shifting of men's relations with one another—and the development of law to meet each new relation—these are subjects which invite the careful attention of every student of the law, and their study should have its place in every law school. No better nor more interesting volume, we can safely assert, can be found for students, whether of early or mature years, than this, and to all interested in the literature of law, whether they be of the profession or not, we can commend it as both pleasant, learned and instructive.